

A³ 26. (New) A network management tool for a computer network which includes two or more data-storage devices and at least first and second computer systems, the second having a shell registry and a logical file container associated with one of the data-storage devices, the tool comprising:

means for identifying the one of the data-storage devices in the shell registry of the second computer system; and

means for changing the shell registry of the second computer system via the computer network to associate the logical file container with another one of the data-storage devices.

Remarks

This amendment, responsive to the Office Action of September 15, 1999, amends the drawings and claims 12 and 22, and adds new claims 25 and 26. In particular, Figure 4B of the drawings was amended to include reference numerals 108a, 108b, and 108c. Claim 12 was amended to clarify the automatic setting of the default storage container and to ensure proper antecedence throughout the claims. Claim 22 was also amended to ensure proper antecedence. None of the amendments are intended to overcome rejections based on the cited art or to disclaim or to surrender any patentable subject matter or range of equivalents.

New claims 25 and 26 address subject matter similar to but distinct from claims 12 and 22. In particular, claims 25 and 26 uses "means" language, which applicant intends to be construed under 35 USC 112, paragraph six. None of the other pending claims are intended to be construed under this paragraph.

Response to Novelty Rejections Based on Remington

In the Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-6 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,771,384 (Remington.) In making the rejection, the Examiner mapped portions of Remington onto each of the elements of independent claims 1, 6, and 12-16. However, the rejection should be withdrawn, because the

mapped portions of Remington do not correspond identically with all the elements of the independent claims.

In particular, claim 1 requires "one or more file-operation dialog boxes which are accessible by application programs of the computer and which specify a file container associated with the predetermined file-container icon as a default document container for files related to the application programs." In contrast, Remington generally reports that it facilitates user programmability of container attributes through replacing the methods or extending functionality of the container. See, for example, col. 3, lines 35-51 and col. 1, lines 23-29.) The range of user programmability includes restriction of the file types for a specific container (col. 4, lines 35-38), maintenance of statistical content information and control of access to the specific container (col. 15, lines 44-46.) This functionality has little or nothing to do with file-operation dialog boxes that present a default document container to application programs accessing the dialog boxes, and thus does not meet the requirements of claim 1.

In the Action, the Examiner asserted that items 402 and 406 of Remington's Figure 5 were file-operation dialog boxes and that these items specified a file container as a default document container for application programs. However, the text in Figure 5 identifies item 402, not as a dialog box of a graphical user interface, but as a memory, and Figure 5 identifies item 406, not as dialog box, but as permanent storage. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claim 6, also distinguishable from Remington, requires "an operating system which defines the predetermined file-storage container as a default file-storage container on file-operation dialog windows accessible by application programs." However, in stark contrast to claim 6, Remington concerns user-programmability of container attributes, not an operating system which presents a default storage container through dialog windows to application programs. Indeed, there seems to be little if anything at all in Remington to do with establishing a default storage container for any application program. (In rejecting this claim, the Examiner again cited memory 402 and permanent storage 406 of Figure 5 as dialog boxes.) Accordingly, applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 6.

Claim 12, which also distinguishes from Remington, requires “automatically setting a default folder for storing files related to the one application” under specific conditions. Remington, on the other hands, has nothing providing this functionality. In the Action, the Examiner points to the mere programmability of Remington’s container 502 as meeting this requirement. However, that Remington’s container 502 might arguably be programmed with hindsight to execute a portion of a method, any method, does not amount to actual or even reasonable disclosure of an actual program to perform the portion of the method. The fact is Remington does not disclose automatic setting of a default folder for an application program under any conditions. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn.

Claims 14, 15, and 16 are believed also to distinguish from Remington for reasons similar to those noted above. In particular, these claims require a computer program which provides a predetermined file-storage folder as a default folder on file operation dialog boxes accessible by application programs; or one or more file-management modules defined to provide a default file-storage folder to one or more computer application programs; or a graphical user interface which includes one or more dialog windows defined to display information identifying a document folder communicated via the operating system to one or more applications as a default storage folder. Nothing in Remington appears to meet these requirements. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to these claims.

Response to Novelty Rejections Based on Robert Cowart

In the Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Robert Cowart, “Mastering Windows 95” page 49-55, 227-234 and 934-937 (Robert Cowart). However, independent claims 17, 19, 21, and 22 distinguish from Robert Cowart.

In particular, claim 17 requires “a graphical user interface which includes file open and save dialog windows defined to display a selection for a document folder promoted via the operating system as a default storage folder to one or more application programs that access the file open and save dialog windows.” The Examiner cites page

54, paragraph 3 of Robert Cowart as disclosing a File manager that works as a default storage folder and that thus satisfies the requirements of claim 17. However, the cited passage reports how Windows 95 handles long and short filenames. It has nothing to do with file open and file save dialog boxes displaying a default storage folder promoted by the operating system. In particular, the cited third paragraph states

As a workaround to the file-name limitation of older programs, Windows 95 allows you to do the following: You can create a document file in a 16-bit program, as usual and save it. Then you use Windows 95's interface to rename the file to the long name of your choice. You can then open and edit the file by double-clicking on its long name or selecting the truncated name in the 16-bit program's File Open dialog boxes. After editing in the 16-bit program, when you save the file its long file name isn't truncated. Looking at it with the Explorer or in a folder also lists its full name.

There is no mention of a default storage folder in this paragraph or anywhere on page 54. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 17 and its dependents should be withdrawn.

In rejecting claim 19, which requires a most recently-used file menu defined to display links to one or more most recently-used files, the Examiner cites Robert Cowart's Figure 5.13. However, Figure 5.13 shows a Windows 95 graphical user interface which displays a background desktop, a middle-ground MyComputer window, and a foreground window showing file icons for a 3.5-inch floppy drive A. No recently-used file menu is shown. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 19 and its dependents should be withdrawn.

Claim 21 also distinguishes from Robert Cowart, particularly Figure 5.13 cited by the Examiner. Claim 21 recites an "operating system comprising a graphical user interface which includes a desktop that provides access to a predetermined file-storage container and to one or more application programs; and one or more file-operations windows accessible by application programs, wherein each file-operations window includes a link to the desktop." Figure 5.13, on the other hand, shows no file-operations window including a link to a desktop. Instead, Figure 5.13 shows a Windows 95 graphical user interface which displays a background desktop, a middle-ground

MyComputer window, and a foreground window showing file icons for 3.5-inch floppy drive A. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 21 should be withdrawn.

Claim 22 also distinguishes from Robert Cowart, particularly paragraph two of page 936, which the Examiner cited in the rejection. Claim 22 requires "identifying the one of the data-storage devices in the shell registry of the second computer system; and changing the shell registry of the second computer system via the computer network to associate the logical file container with another one of data-storage devices." In contrast, paragraph two of page 936 reports that "[t]he protocol implementation manages such tasks as requesting data from file and application servers, providing resources to other workstations, and placing data on the network" and that "[y]ou can configure and uses Windows 95 without a thorough knowledge of networking protocols..." Nothing in paragraph two conveys identification of a data-storage device in a shell registry of a computer system or changing the shell registry over a network for any purpose. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 22 and its dependents be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections Based on Remington and Robert Cowart

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Remington (as applied to claim 1) and Robert Cowart pages 49-55, 227-234 and 934-937. In response, applicant notes that Remington fails to anticipate claim 1 as asserted in the Action. In particular, as noted above, the cited functionality in Remington concerns user programmability of container attributes through replacing the methods or extending functionality of the container and thus has little or nothing to do with file-operation dialog boxes that present a default document container to application programs accessing the dialog boxes.

Moreover, even if it were proper to combine Remington and Robert Cowart as the Examiner suggests, Robert Cowart does not fill the gap between Remington and claims 1 and 4. Specifically, the Examiner cites the File item of Robert Cowart's Figure 1.27 as giving "the open and save operation." However, the disclosure of a file open and save operation does not overcome Remington's lack of file-operation dialog boxes which

present a default document container to application programs accessing the boxes.

Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections Based on Remington and Attalla

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Remington as applied to claim 6 and U.S. Patent 5,823,287 (Atalla.) In response, applicant notes that Remington fails to anticipate claim 6 as asserted in the Action. In particular, as noted above, the cited functionality in Remington concerns user-programmability of container attributes, not an operating system which presents a default storage container through dialog windows to application programs.

Even if it were proper to combine Remington and Atalla as the Examiner suggests, Attalla does not bridge the gap between Remington and claims 7-9. Atalla generally concerns a wideband on-demand video distribution system and method, and the portion cited by the Examiner, namely Figure 1 and col. 2, lines 1-28, reports distribution of portions of a master file of audio and/or video data to a number of community systems in response to user requests. Each community system stores copies of a number of videos being actively used by users. This subject matter does not overcome Remington's failure to disclose the claimed operating system which presents a default storage container for application program, through their access of file-operation dialog boxes. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 7-9 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of this amendment and these remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application. Moreover, applicant invites the Examiner to telephone its patent counsel Eduardo Drake at (612) 349-9593 to resolve any questions or concerns which may impede allowance.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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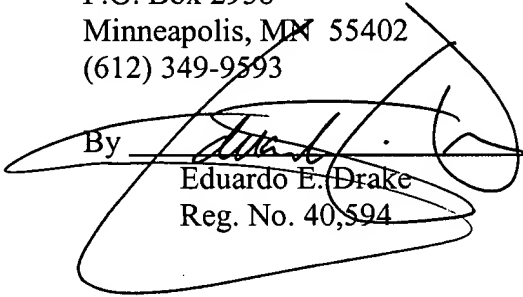
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 21, 1999.

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